

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6069

BILL NUMBER: SB 12

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 1, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: County and Township Assessor Qualifications.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Boots

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill provides that after June 30, 2013, each: (1) county assessor; and (2) township assessor; who has not attained the certification of a Level III assessor-appraiser must either employ a certified Level III assessor-appraiser or retain the services of a certified Level III assessor-appraiser as an independent contractor.

It provides that if an assessor does not comply with these requirements, the county executive shall order the county auditor to withhold the salary of the assessor, unless the county executive makes certain findings.

It also deletes the requirement that candidates for county assessor or township assessor must have attained the certification of a Level III assessor-appraiser.

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* The bill has no direct fiscal impact on the training costs for local assessing officials. Any change would depend on the policies of the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) in paying for local assessor training.

Background: The Assessment Training Fund was established in 2001 to pay for the training of local assessment officials and DLGF employees. The DLGF pays for Level I, II, and III training, as well as continuing education. The revenue in the fund is from sales disclosure filing fees, and in FY 2012 revenues were \$632,264. All training expenditures from the fund in FY 2012 were \$417,944.

Under current law, one qualification of a candidate for county or township assessor is to have attained a Level III assessor-appraiser certification. Officeholders prior to January 1, 2012, may continue to be candidates for office without attaining Level III certification. As of August 24, 2012, of the county assessors, there were 36 with and 56 without a Level III assessor-appraiser certification. Of the remaining 13 township assessors, 7 have a Level III designation.

Certification requires that an individual take the five specific classes sanctioned by the International Association of Assessing Officers and pass a test after each class. The DLGF pays for the five classes for up to three assessing officials from each county.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* Counties and townships may have a reduction in travel costs associated with assessor training. Associated reductions in training costs may also occur.

Background: Under current law, counties and townships must reimburse an assessor for training-related travel expenses. If county and township assessors do not have to attain Level III assessor-appraiser training, the amount of travel may be reduced. Additionally, the DLGF will pay for one of each of the five required classes per official. If an assessor must repeat the class, either the assessor or the county or township would have to pay the additional tuition. The magnitude of the cost savings is reduced due to the reduction in the number of assessors that will need to be trained. As more incumbent assessors become Level III certified and as assessor candidates must attain Level III training prior to being on the ballot, fewer assessors will need training.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties and townships.

Information Sources: Cathy Wolter, DLGF.

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